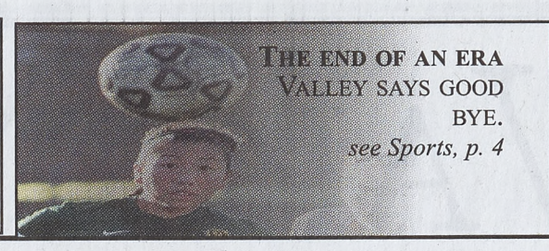
11-19-14

"In the Heights"
Come read the review.

see Valley Life, p. 2

No justice
How the NCAA let Penn State go free.

see Opinion, p. 3



The end of an era
Valley says good bye.

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Defenseless
No. 1 ranking fades.

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The Valley Star

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 81, ISSUE NO. 6 | NOV. 19, 2014 | WWW.THEVALLEYSTAR.COM

Physics students take off

■ Relatively new club to Valley, allows students to test scientific theories without being in the laboratory.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

They just want to understand one thing: The universe.

The Physics Club at Valley College provides freedom for students who would like to work on projects that give them insight on how the universe behaves.

"People who want to discover and learn science related applications while having fun should join," said physics professor and club moderator, John H. Altounji.

The club has primarily been working with three items this semester: rockets, arduinos (single-board microcontrollers, in non-genius speak), and hydrogen fuel-cell cars.

Club President, Pedro Gonzalez and Altounji explained that on Wednesday Oct. 29, the club launched two rockets at the football stadium. The first rocket reached 24 meters, while the second rocket reached 27 meters.

"Thanks to Dr. Altounji, we ended up launching two of the rockets and then we calculated the max height, we were like little nerds outside," said the mechanical engineer major.

Monarchs can view a video of the rocket launch on the club's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/LAVC.PhysicsClub2014/

On Nov. 5, a few members operated a hydrogen fuel-cell car while others worked with a Michelson Interferometer. The interferometer uses a beam-splitter in order to divide a light source into two arms.

Those working with the interferometer were hoping to understand the fundamentals of light.

"We were playing with it, but in technical terms," said Gonzalez. "We learned we can change the movable mirror to change the interference pattern."

Members examined the change in the shifts of the wavelength in regards to the crest and troph, based on whether the light traveled the same distance or not.

On the other side of the room, energy engineering major Jeremy Del Aguíla explained what allows the hydrogen fuel-cell car to move.

"The principle that this functions off of is the redox reaction . . . it turns H2O bonds into kinetic energy . . . it uses hydrogen as a fuel which can be produced into various forms of alternative energy; the only emission being water vapor," said Del Aguíla. Translation: It's ultra-clean and uses no fossil fuels. Or to the rest of us, clean car go good vroom vroom.

please see *Physics* page 2

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

AGUSTÍN ANGEL FLORES/VALLEY STAR

CHAMPS - Monarchs won their first WSC championship in the program's history, by defeating Citrus College 15-11 in the final of the Western State Conference Championship, which was held at Valley.

The ASU president wants Monarchs to be proud

■ He's got spirit, yes he does. The pres. wants to bring the campus together.

BY AMANDA CAVARRETTTA, STAFF WRITER & JORGE BELON, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Associated Student Union (ASU) President Sukhsimran Sandhu watches over Valley College. It's easier for him to do than for most; he's 6-foot-4.

In his role as ASU president, one will never hear him roar as he does on the football field, but his presence is always felt on the campus.

Sandhu ran for presidency with the simple dream of making Valley students proud to be Monarchs, and to help improve the experience of not only students but residents surrounding the campus.

"Back in my high school [Chanhassen, Minnesota], the entire community would get involved with everything that happened," said the man who moonlights as center on the Monarchs' football team. "But when I got to Valley, there was absolutely no school spirit. I remember asking a student, 'Do you know what ASU is?' and he said, 'Arizona State University.' After he said that, I knew we have a lot of work."

The Sylmar, California native moved to Chanhassen, Minnesota at a young age with his family. He went to elementary, middle and high school there. While in high school he also was also a part of the student union and played football at the same time. After graduating from high school, he returned to the Golden State alone first; shortly thereafter, the rest of his family followed. The 22-year-old enrolled at Valley and began to play football in 2013.

"I love football," he said. "I know that playing in college can get you through college for free. So why not?"

ZAIDA DIAZ/VALLEY STAR

OUT ON THE CAMPUS - Pres. Sandhu working and associating with students on Club Day in front of the Student Service Center.

What was missing, he thought, was the school spirit he was used to seeing around him. So he decided to run for the ASU post with the goal of improving students' experiences at Valley College and making them care.

"He's mature enough where he understands how to manage his times," said Valley Football Head Coach Juan Navarro about Sandhu. "He understands what times he needs to dedicate to football and other commitments."

Although he had past experience playing football and being part of a student union in high school, at Valley that meant his task involved keeping more than 19,000 Monarchs happy.

"It's basically time management," said the president, admitting his social life has been "managed" out of existence. "Each day there is something for me to do. All the ASU stuff is basically during the day. Then at night for four hours my life is dedicated to football, afterwards I have to do homework, and then the next day it starts all over again. I do not have time to experience the social life. I am always moving around and working."

So far his time and sacrifice of a social life has not gone in vain, he has not yet moved mountains, but he has already made Associated Student Organization [ASO] members see changes for the better. People, who pay their ASO fee, will be able to use the commu-

please see *President* page 3

Valley is doing its part to save water

■ The state of California is currently undergoing the driest conditions ever recorded in history.

BY AGUSTÍN ÁNGEL FLORES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College, along with the rest of the nine sister colleges in the district, is up to date when it comes to water conservation.

Valley has had regulations that have conserved the water consumption before the California drought was proclaimed.

Tom Lopez, Valley director of college facilities, explains that the campus has a smart irrigation system that will water the grass based on the weather data they integrate. They have also changed all urinals on campus to waterless.

As construction and remodeling surrounds the campus, purple pipe's are starting to be placed on campus. Purple pipe is a water line that runs sewer-reclaimed water for irrigation purposes only. This water line will not be used until the utility company brings in a water line five years from now.

Students can see that new landscapes, like the one in between the pool and the South Gym, are being built with the use of drought-resistant plants and new permeable concrete in walkways.

Lopez also mentioned that the baseball and softball fields are going to be changed from real grass to artificial. The replacement of the turf saves a lot of water and money to the college. A great example of artificial turf is Monarch Stadium.

"Right now we are budgeting about $150,000 for water," Lopez said. "If you can knock-off water consumption by 10 percent, in theory, you can save maybe $14,000 out of the budget."

On January 17, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these drought conditions.

The severe drought conditions present urgent challenges: water shortages in communities across the state, diminished water for agricultural production, degraded habitat for many fish and wildlife species, and additional water scarcity if drought conditions continue into 2015.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 80% of California is in extreme drought, and the state's condition isn't expected to improve in the near future. The last time the state was clear from any signs of drought was in 2011.

"The prolonged statewide drought means it will be 'harder to break the cycle,' much like some thirsty regions in Oklahoma and the entire state of Texas, which have been struggling with drought since 2010," said climatologist Brian Fuchs of the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska.

On April 25, Governor Brown issued an executive order to redouble the state's drought actions. Since then, districts throughout the state have made regulations and water management improvements according to the respective need of water of their region.

Five days later, the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees anonymously approved the adoption of the "Resolution - Water Use and Conservation" where it states: "The district [will] identify and accelerate the implementation of water use and water conservation projects, such as project-specific recycled water implementation…"

Valley College is already following the guidelines of this resolution.

The Eco Advocates club have another solution that can help reduce the misuse of drinkable water. According to Secretary Jeanette Diaz, the club has discussed that Valley should replace the current water fountains with water bottle filling stations.

"You and the school will be saving water," Diaz said. "When you use the water fountain, you are essentially wasting water."

JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR

READ ALL ABOUT IT - Check out The Valley Star special coverage of the prestigious play, "In the Heights" on Valley Life page 2.

IN THE HEIGHTS

Monarchs hit the 'Heights'

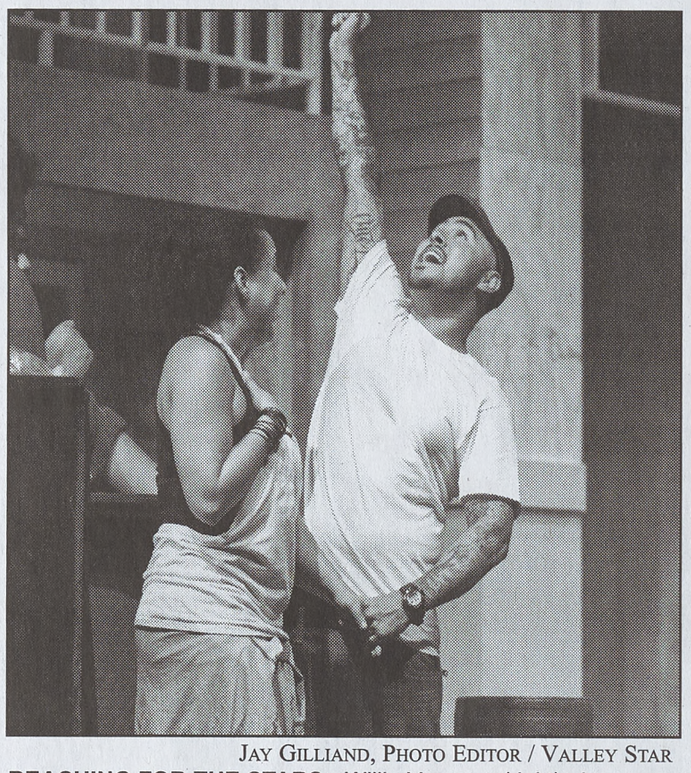
■ A lively opening night for "In the Heights" from talented Monarchs.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

It was a night filled with upbeat tempos incorporating elements from Latin and hip-hop music matched by some big voices at Valley's Main Stage on Friday for the opening of "In the Heights."

The musical tells the story of Latino urban dwellers dreaming of a prosperous future. Families in the Washington Heights neighborhood in New York struggle with assimilation, family, and money.

In its initial Broadway run, "In the Heights" won four Tony Awards, including Best Musical, in 2008. Its variety of musical styles and comic and dancing demands provided a worthy challenge for the Theater Arts Department.



JAY GILLIAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

REACHING FOR THE STARS - Willie Vazquez (right) plays Usnavi. The show can be seen on Nov. 21-22 at Valley College.

The signature role of Usnavi, originally played by Tony-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, was wonderfully portrayed by Willie Vasquez. The unassuming narrator owns a small bodega in his neighborhood and dreams of returning to his birthplace in the Dominican Republic. Vasquez embodied the "barrio guy" as he moved effortlessly across the stage rapping and singing. Usnavi is deeply enamored with Vanessa (Katherine Arevelo), who longs to leave the block the first chance she gets.

However, it was Marena Rosado as Nina Rosario who shined through with her big voice. Her number, "Breathe," marked a high point, and she delivered raw emotion as she explained the pressure in being the first from her family to go to college.

Joclyn Palucho delivered a notable performance as Daniela, the sassy and outspoken hairstylist. Palucho flawlessly personified the bold character, Cuban accent and all.

There were, however, a few minor glitches in the musical; on occasion the music overpowered some of the singers' voices, which made it difficult to understand the lyrics.

The cast faced an obstacle during Act II when Graffiti Pete (Justin Sabino) struggled to pull down the bodega's gate. However, Vasquez improvised and jokingly asked, "Need some help there . . . don't want you breaking any more things." Sonny, played by Micah Mora, rushed to help; they played it off and the audience laughed with them.

Despite the minor hitches, the ensemble's cheerful singing and dancing made it a lively night worth experiencing.

The musical's multicultural aspect and its honest depiction of the pursuit of the American Dream and the struggles to realize it, make it relatable to many.

The Theater Arts Department will be presenting "In The Heights" again on Nov. 21-22 at 8 p.m. in the Main Stage of the Theatre Arts Building. Monarchs can purchase general admission tickets in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com for $15, or for $20 at the door.

Dancer's Move Gets Family Lift

■ Cast member Joclyn Palucho took a cross-country gamble. So far, so good.

BY JASEL RICO
STAFF WRITER

Washington, D.C. native Joclyn Palucho may be doing a lot of talking in "In the Heights," but she is also focusing on her education at Valley College.

Palucho plays Daniela, a gossipping salon owner who keeps spirits up in the community. She was attracted to the role because she has a similar personality. The performer always hopes for the best and keeps everyone on their toes.

She jumped at the opportunity to audition for this play after seeing the show three times and becoming a major fan of the music.

"I love singing and my father, grandfather and uncles were all musicians. Both of my parents support me in my dreams; otherwise, I wouldn't be here. I always let them know everything that I am doing," Palucho said.

Her love for singing and dancing were inspired by her father, a musician who plays different percussion instruments. Growing up in a fun and creative household shaped her to explore many sides of herself.

She took up acting as she started participating in theater productions. That encouraged her to keep hunting for bigger roles. She has grown to love all three art forms individually and all together.

Still, when the D.C. native chose to move to Los Angeles three years ago to pursue her dreams in singing and dancing, her parents were both scared but knew how happy it would make her. She made the cross-country trip and arrived in Los Angeles to fulfill her dreams and attend school.

JAZMINE SANCHEZ / VALLEY STAR

A ROYAL MONARCH - Joclyn Palucho (top) plays the vibrant Daniela.

The 25-year-old childhood development major and theater minor describes herself as a creative person.

"I have always had that creative side of me that was more dominating from an early age," Palucho said.

Mary Onyango, a musical-theater major playing the role of Carla in "In the Heights," is her best friend on and offstage.

"Joclyn has a very big personality. [She is] upbeat, fun and cool just like her character," said Onyango. Both the actress and the character are self-confident.

"Joclyn has definitely worked her hardest," Onyango said. "She has been doing her research by looking at other characters take on the role but also still making it her own."

The dancer attends classes mostly during the day in order to fit the rehearsal schedules. Although it has been a struggle, performing is something she loves to do. She finds her balance in it all, yet she knows that the entertainment business is hard. It is important for her and her family to see her have an education, as well as to pursue her dreams.

"I know having a backup plan is a must," Palucho said. "That's why I decided to do childhood development, so I can get that degree and be set. But I do want to see how far I can get with this part of my creative life."

Monarchs can catch Palucho and the rest of the "In the Heights" cast on Nov. 21 and the 22 at the Main Stage Theater and can buy tickets at brownpapertickets.com.

'Physics'

continued from page 1

Different equipment is introduced to students, so that they can gain a better understanding of the laws that govern nature.

Students from different specialties come together and communicate their knowledge with members as to help them comprehend the given activity.

"There are different things that inspire us and being in the physics club gives us a place to come and bring those ideas together," said Aguila.

All Monarchs are encouraged to join, from those who struggle with physics to those whose passion is as powerful as a supermassive black hole.

The Physics Club meets every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 149 in the AHS building.

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OPINION

FIFA on the wrong side of this "turf war"

■ Female players fighting to keep the 2015 Women's World Cup off artificial turf next summer.

NBC SPORTS

OUCH - United States Women's National team forward Sydney Leroux shows the world what artifical turf can do to human skin.

BY JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Top female athletes refuse to play in the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada on turf instead of grass. And now the heated battle with female international soccer players on one side and FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) on the other is heading to court.

"Men's World Cup tournament matches are played on natural grass while CSA and FIFA are relegating female players to artificial turf," the players' counsel, Hampton Dellinger, said in a statement. "The difference matters: Plastic pitches alter how the game is played, pose unique safety risks and are considered inferior for international competition."

Men have not played on turf in the World Cup since 1930. If the 2018 World Cup in Russia were to be played on an artificial surface, the backlash would ruin FIFA. However, since the women's game is still very young, FIFA and the CSA believe they can get away with shunting the female athletes to the plastic.

In Major League Soccer, the New York Red Bulls star Frenchman Thierry Henry has played all over Europe in his 20-year-career. In the old continent and pretty much the rest of the world, to play soccer on anything else but on grass is a crime. When he arrived in the States in 2010, he was introduced to turf.

Now when the Red Bulls play the four teams in MLS that use turf, he never plays. Now does anyone in FIFA or in CONCACAF (Which is the federation Canada belongs to.) force the former World Cup winner, to play, no they just let it happen.

Anyone who has played on turf and on grass for any sport knows there is a huge difference. Athletes don't care how cheap the surface is to maintain; they widely consider turf not safe. But FIFA claims turf and grass are the same when it come to injuries: Vice-Chairman of UEFA (Union of European Football Association) Medical Committee Dr. Jan Ekstrand has said a person can get the same injuries on turf as on grass.

Players - the people who actually have to face those potential injuries - largely disagree.

"Now that I look back on it, I feel like that [grass] allowed me to become the aggressive player I am today. Especially playing in Vancouver with the rain and grass. You can slide and do all these things," Canadian native and U.S. international Sydney Leroux told ESPN.

Injuries in the recent years they have died down because players have become less aggressive on the field, due to the fear of getting hurt, and the fact that sliding on turf will cut open the skin.

"In my first true full season on turf at Boston, I completely ruined my leg. So it's not even an argument. Everyone knows the raspberries you get by playing on turf. And the injuries," said Leroux.

"Thierry Henry won't even travel to Seattle [to play the Sounders] because he doesn't play on turf. Some of the best players in the world refuse to play on turf. Look, I would play on dry Arizona grass in the heat of the summer before I would play on turf."

The New York State Department of Health says, beyond injuries, turf is simply bad for athletes. They note the temperature on turf can rise up to 146 degrees. Even if water is added on to the field, in a matter of minutes it will go over a 100 degrees again.

Players can even be exposed to toxic chemicals by the surface. In 2008, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said there was a potential of lead exposures from synthetic turf fibers, according to the New York State Department of Health.

According to Philly.com, a result was published in 2011 that there had been a higher number of ankle injuries due to artificial turf, in football, rugby, and soccer. The following year more stats came out pointing to the possible damage turf can cause, and that was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) saw an increased risk of ACL injuries.

Now when a group of women want to make sure they play on grass instead of turf, FIFA and the CSA are outraged - but refused to meet with them to discuss their concerns without a judge present. So the players and Dellinger officially sued FIFA and the CSA on Oct. 1.

The suit calls this is a violation of Canada's Human Rights Act, Section One: "Every person has the right to equal treatment with respect to services, goods and facilities, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability."

With the World Cup starting on June 5 of next year, the fight is in crunch time, and neither side is near giving up. In fact, the very person in FIFA whose job it is to support and guide women soccer has turned against the players.

"We are playing on artificial turf, and there is no plan B," Tatjana Haenni, FIFA's head of women's competitions told the New York Times.

If FIFA steamrollers the female athletes into playing on turf, the 2015 World Cup may be the first one where there will be more injuries than goals.

"About a year ago when we heard definitively that they were gonna be playing it on actual artificial surface, I kinda came out pretty vocally and said this is an outrage, this is a disgrace," the leading scorer for the U.S., Abby Wambach, told CBS News. "The game changes, the ball rolls faster, and it's less fun as an athlete. It should be grass stains, not blood."

'President'

continued from page 1

nity discount cards, where students can get up to $30 off or more depending on student purchases. The card can be used in North Hollywood, Van Nuys and Burbank.

However, he also is in the works of getting ASO members a reserved parking space in the second floor of the new parking structure. Not to mention he is talking to the food trucks on campus to attempt and get discounts for the members.

"Paying ASO fees are important to us and to my goals," said Sandhu. "With the ASO money we can help fund the math lab, the writing lab and astronomy. And then we have to fund all the clubs, which means events, like the Latino Heritage Month that just happened and the Black Heritage event that is going to happen will be provided with proper resources to run the event."

The president went on to say, "I want to promote school events to get students more involved, but we cannot fund these events without the ASO fees. I learned that without that money, there is very little we can do to help students and improve the campus experience."

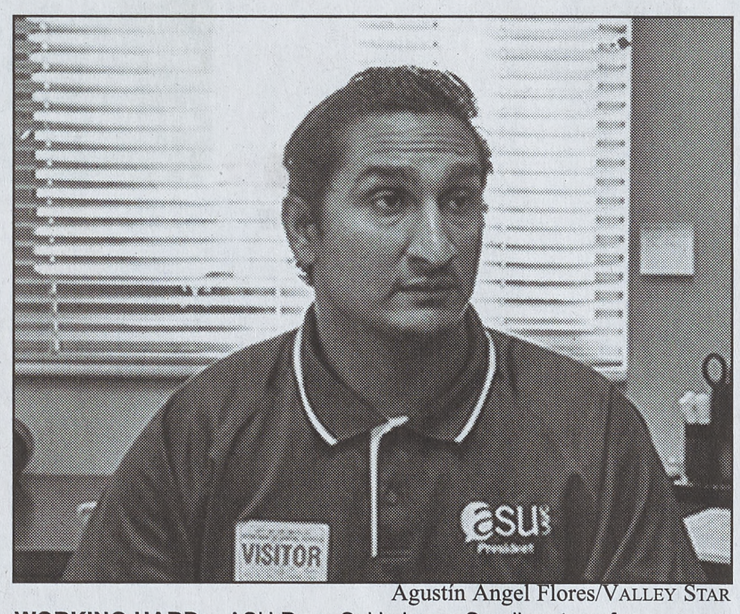
Regardless that his plate is full, the 22-year-old does not send out the vibe of someone who is stressed or near the brink of breakdown. He is downright mellow when he talks, often with a smile. He has been able to keep focus and is now only a month away from getting his Associates Degree in social and behavioral science in December. He is in the works of getting another AA in communication if he does not leave Valley.

He is undecided in his major or where he wants to transfer to. The reason for that he is too fond of to many subjects to just commit to one and transfer, though he is still open to transferring out. When he's not thinking about that, his mind is on the Monarchs walking around campus.

"When I leave Valley, I just want to be remembered for building a foundation," said Sandhu. "I want to create awareness of ASU and get people involved. After I am done with being president, I want to run for board of trustees."

The 22-year-old quickly learned that the real power lies with the board of trustees. For example he wanted to add more classes and extend library hours but his hands cannot move that road block. The board of trustees can only fry these bigger fishes.

"The board of trustees are the people who have halted the construction of the new media arts building," he said. "What can you expect when you let politicians make decision for students? There is no student vote with the board of trustees, so how do I keep the promises I



Agustín Angel Flores/VALLEY STAR

WORKING HARD - ASU Pres. Sukhsimran Sandhu stops for a rare moment in his office. He also has duties as an offensive lineman.

Not-so happy valley

■ A horror tale of the NCAA and Penn State.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
SPORTS EDITOR

In State College, PA, Joseph Vincent Paterno is seen as an immortal, tangible figure. Through the same lens—which is shared by the NCAA—Gerald Arthur "Jerry" Sandusky's 26 known victims of child molestation are seen as transparent, irrelevant castaways.

How dare those people come forward and forever taint the historic, squeaky-clean legacy of Penn State (PSU) football? How dare those people force the NCAA's hand in placing a four-year postseason ban on the poor, innocent college football players who are still receiving a free education? How dare the media over-blow concrete evidence of Joe Paterno being fully aware of Jerry Sandusky molesting and raping young boys in the football facilities in 1998 and dismiss it? How dare they, right? Wrong.

The NCAA has received a very fair amount of criticism over the past decade or so over the way they have handled scandals that have arisen involving different players and programs: Reggie Bush/USC, Ohio State/Jim Tressel, Dez Bryant, University of Miami, etc. But none of those instances take the cake like the one that occurred two months ago.

On September 8, 2014, media outlets were on fire from the bomb that TMZ Sports dropped; footage of Ray Rice throwing a vicious hook at his girlfriend—now wife—inside of an Atlantic City elevator had surfaced. From ESPN's SportsCenter to ABC's The View, everyone was talking about it.

What no one was talking about, however, was how on the same day, in an extremely sly, sneaky, surreptitious manner, the NCAA decided to lift the steep sanctions they had placed on the Penn State football program two years prior. So why do this all of a sudden?

According to Penn State's athletic integrity monitor and former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell's second annual report to the NCAA Executive Committee since 2012, the school had been "compliant" with the consent decree that was placed on them. Mitchell also went on to say that the school had made progress toward enforcing and implementing a new human resources system, "fostering an ethical culture," and improving security at its sports facilities, according to CBS News.

"Penn State has made remarkable progress over the past year," said South Carolina University President Harris Pastides, a member of the NCAA's board of directors, according to ESPN. "The board members and I believe the executive committee's decision is the right one. It allows both the university and the association to continue to move toward a common goal of ensuring that educating, nurturing and protecting young people is a top priority."

The NCAA, along with George Mitchell, felt like a sub-two-year period was enough time for a school, football program, and community to completely shift their culture? Enough to cut the original length of the punishment in half? Absolutely not.

"Football will never again be placed ahead of educating, nurturing, and protecting young people," said an adamant Mark Emmert, the NCAA President, in 2012 when he first publicly declared the sanctions that were being placed on Penn State.

As Emmert alluded to in that statement, football is, always has been, and always will be placed ahead of everything in State College—a city with a population of just 41,757 people. That 'football first' mindset and culture is instilled in that area, and not even a scandal as big as child molestation could sway them into vocally favoring the victims over what was an incredibly corrupt football program.

This was disturbingly more evident than ever in Amir Bar-Lev's documentary "Happy Valley," that premieres Nov. 19, which chronicles the year and a half following Sandusky being arrested on sex abuse charges through the eyes of several objective—and very subjective—Penn State enthusiasts.

In the film, Bar-Lev was able to capture pro-Paterno/anti-media Penn State fans from near and far who held rallies and protests, including the violent, chaotic riot that everyone remembers in late 2011 the night Joe Paterno was fired. Little to no real sympathy for the victims was displayed then, but the outpouring and rage for beloved 'Joe-Pa' for losing his job was rampant.

This is a culture issue that cannot be solved in 24 months, no matter how many "improvements" are made or how far they were "heading in the right direction."

Then, there are those like Tyler Estright, a class of 2013 Penn State graduate who was featured in the film who complained that "the media should've focused more on the perpetrator," and that "Happy Valley doesn't exist anymore."

Yes, Sandusky is the central villain in this fiasco, but those who assisted the the cover-up—including PSU former Athletic Director Tim Curley, former PSU Vice President of business and finance Gary Schultz, former PSU President Graham Spanier, and Paterno—are just as guilty.

It is also pretty amazing that people a part of that delusional culture with Penn State Nittany Lion footballs for brains can find it within them to blame the media for reporting on arguably the biggest collegiate scandal in American history.

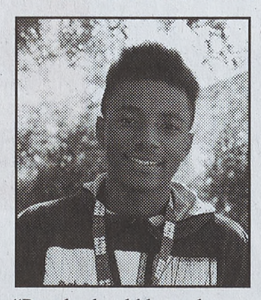
The film also features Matt Sandusky's story, Jerry's adopted son, and how his relationship with Jerry began amazing; he would take Matt to football games, practices, give him brand new PSU gear to wear, along

please see *President* page 2

CampusView

Should freedom of speech be allowed all over the campus instead of only having it in one area?

PHOTOS BY AGUSTIN ANGEL FLORES, VALLEY STAR



"People should have the right to express themselves wherever they want."

Richard Kidd, business

"I think its good to have it in only one area, that way exeryone knows where they can be heard specifically, rather than just everywhere."

STEPHANIE SOLIZ, BIOLOGY

"I think freedom of speech should be allowed all over campus becasue it's always great to hear what everyone has to say."

NOE BUELNA, UNDECIDED

"One area becasue it would not disrupt other students, who perhaps do not want to hear their speeches."

POLINA VOVLE, PSYCHOLOGY

SPORTS

THE DAILY TRAUB

STARTING FRESH- Penn State was the NCAA's model program - until it came out that the admiinstration, including revered Coach Joe Paterno, didn't protect children from a sexual predator.

'Happy Valley'

continued from page 3

with essentially saving Matt from a broken home with his biological family. But it all came at a significant price; Matt too was sexually abused by Jerry.

"Ninety percent of the time that I spent with [Jerry] was everything you'd want," said Matt Sandusky during an interview in the film. "But that 10 percent just destroyed [me]."

Matt also explained how he felt compelled to testify against his adopted father after hearing so many grueling similar stories of abuse by victims who had taken the stand to testify during Jerry's trial. Since he testified however, Matt said he has been completely shut out by the rest of the Sandusky family. They have not once tried to see him, speak to him, or contact him in any form.

Matt is no more than a transparent, and irrelevant castaway to the Sandusky family.

To add fuel to the fire, Bar-Lev added in his Q&A session after the screening of his movie that Matt Sandusky's status in the entire town near State College is very low. And according to Bar-Lev, Matt's religious preacher has even refused to minister to him and his family of five, though the same preacher visits Jerry in jail once a week to minister to him.

Absolutely unreal.

This is why this scandal goes far beyond the football program. It is a mentality that those surrounding the program possess. Anything college football-related in State College, PA is untouchable and is a direct reason why PSU suffered heavy consequences and why it was even more egregious by the NCAA to lift those consequences.

They essentially just put the program in 'timeout' for two years before letting them off of the hook for no real reason.

The late Joe Paterno, along with everyone else involved in the cover-up, got what they deserved as far as punishments. They all deserve to have their name tarnished and it is their fault that people now tend to turn their noses up at the mere mention of Penn State. Had Paterno & Co. just done the simple, moral task of going to the police to rid themselves and the program of Jerry Sandusky's abominable figure when they had the opportunity to over a decade ago, Happy Valley would still be a happy, satisfying place to enjoy college football. But now, it will always be a has-been with a dark cloud still circling over it—despite the NCAA's random, desperate efforts to revive the program.

Joe Paterno Jr. shared an interesting tidbit in an interview near the end of "Happy Valley" regarding how he deals with the criticisms that his father receives since the PSU debacle; it is a strikingly similar sentiment to what most PSU devotees probably feel about Joe Paterno Sr.'s involvement in the cover-up, as well as what the program heads may have felt about the Sandusky abuse accusations over a decade ago.

"If I don't hear it or see it, it doesn't exist," said Paterno Jr. "That's denial, but so what, it's for me."

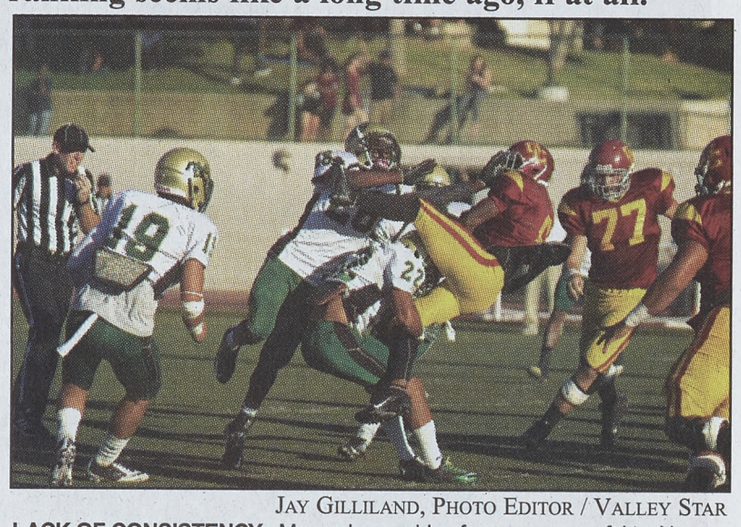
Like father, like son.

FOOTBALL

The constant is inconsistency

■ **Valley's No. 1 defensive ranking seems like a long time ago, if at all.**

BY KEVIN BUCKLES JR.
SPORTS EDITOR



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

LACK OF CONSISTENCY- Monarchs combine for a rare powerful tackle against Glendale Community College on Saturday in their 26-17 road defeat.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times for the Monarchs' defense. It has truly been a tale of two halves of a season for a team that was ranked No. 1 in the state less than a month ago. Opponents have been beating the Dickens out of them since.

The Monarchs have been a sinking ship in their last four games—all losses—since their bye week, allowing opponents to score an average of nearly 37 points per game, including a total of 126 points in their last three games alone. That is a titanic collapse from their first five games where they were only surrendering a stingy 13.2 points a game—No. 2 in the state at the time.

"I think we got into ourselves a little bit," said Head Coach Juan Navarro. "That's why I tell [the players] never to look at the stats. You've got to stay humble to who you are and what you're trying to accomplish."

Valley also had to overcome several injuries on defense, specifically during their annual Victory Bell matchup versus rival Pierce College, Navarro points out. The team lost six defensive starters to injury in a game against the Pierce Brahmas alone.

Monarch defensive lineman Corey Ware – one of the team's leading tacklers – still lauds the defense's play despite injuries and a statistical decline.

"After the bye week, we were right in the teeth of our conference and our bodies were dwindling," said Ware. "I still feel like our defense played at a high level, but we were on the field for too long; our offense couldn't extend drives and put our defense in sticky situations."

During Valley's four-game plummet, the defense has conceded an appalling 19 offensive touchdowns to opponents, including eight against Pierce, where they surrendered a season-high 55 points — the nadir of the Monarchs' decline so far.

Both Ware and Navarro cited miscommunications between players and coaches as the reason for the struggles; more specifically, for surrendering long, explosive touchdowns. That trend was magnified in Valley's most recent game versus the Glendale College Vaqueros when they allowed touchdowns of 55 and 48 yards in a 26-17 loss.

"Being at the junior college level, we play high-caliber offensive talent every week," said Ware. "The touchdowns given up by our defense were solely miscommunication."

The team's rough stretch doomed any hope at the playoffs, especially considering that the four teams that defeated Valley were all conference foes.

Now 3-6 (1-5), 7th in the American Pacific Conference and unranked in the California Community College Regional State Football Poll, the Monarchs will be playing just for pride in their final game Saturday vs. the West Los Angeles Wildcats (3-3 in conference).

"We believe in a positive attitude, and we have to go out there and respond with character, and relentless effort, no matter the opponent," said Navarro. "We will not deviate from that."

Valley lost their final game of the season to West LA 38-28 Saturday afternoon at Monarch Stadium ending their year 3-7.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

End of an era for the Monarchs

■ **Valley College loses five key players, after enjoying a historic season.**

JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

SAYING GOODBYE - Monarchs will now need to plug the rightback position, with the regular starter for the last two seasons, Monica Roldan, leaving Valley.

BY JORGE BELON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On a windy Friday afternoon, the referee blew the final whistle on the Lady Monarchs' soccer season with a 5-1 victory against Bakersfield College at Monarch Stadium.

The whistle also signaled a change of the color guard for Valley College.

"It's a bitter sweet moment," said right-back defender Monica Roldan, who had just played her last game for the Monarchs. "I feel like it is not going to hit me till next week, when I noticed 'oh I do not have practice today.' But yeah it is going to feel weird."

The ladies in green are the first Valley team to finish with a winning record (12-7-2) in the program's history, will lose five key players due to the two-season eligibility restrictions.

The departing stalwarts include goalkeeper Athena Del Rosario, centerback defender Amy Van Leeuween, Roldan, midfielder Guadalupe Ramos and backup goalie/defender Charlene Parrales.

Parrales was forced to sit out the season after suffering a torn ACL in the finale of the previous campaign. She was never given the green light from her doctor to get back on the field.

Roldan, Van Leeuween, Del Rosario and Ramos led the team to new heights and helped the Lady Monarchs finish in fourth place of the Western State Conference South Division and in 25th of the Southern California Region.

However, their freshman season was rough, as the team finished in fifth place and 4-10-7 overall and 3-5-5 in conference.

In 21 games, they allowed 42 goals, but in the following year they sliced that margin in half and only allowed 22.

Del Rosario's record-breaking season was a huge part of the improved defense. She made 130 saves and set a new school record of 10 shutouts, 15 in her two years at Valley. She finished in the top 10 in all four goalie stats in the conference.

As for Ramos, she was the veteran in a midfield that was full of freshmen. She helped guide the team with timely passes, tackles, and scoring. It was not flashy but the veteran kept the young players balanced throughout the historic season.

All four played in each game this season, and yes the team was successful but without these four players, the 12-win season could have drastically been different.

Now with all four heading to their next chapters in both their education and soccer career, Head Coach Greg Venger and the rest of the coaching staff will be forced to fill in the holes they will leave behind.

"You do not replace them," said Venger. "You can never replace them; the best we can do is scout like crazy and hope we fill in the pieces."

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